

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/801,983

Examiner

Ting Zhou

Applicant(s)

EBERT ET AL.

Art Unit

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/17/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-27.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendment filed on 17 October 2007 have been received and entered. Claims 1-27 as amended are pending in the application.

2. It is noted that claims 1-5 and 8-10 were previously indicated as allowed and claims 6-7 were previously indicated as being allowable if written to overcome the 112 rejection, in the office action dated 4/10/07.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-27 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention teaches an attention manager for managing a plurality of outstanding attention requests from applications. Each of the independent claims identifies the distinct feature of automatically displaying the notification dialog on top an on-screen display that is generated by a second application that is active and simultaneously deleting from memory one or more outstanding attention requests that have been cleared and no longer need the user's attention. The closest prior art, Vong et al. U.S. Patent 6,209,011 (hereinafter "Vong") and Chari et al. U.S. Patent 6,553,416 (hereinafter "Chari") teaches a portable electronic device that manages attention requests and notifications from a plurality of applications. In the case of the Vong reference, Vong teaches receiving a first attention request (call) from an alarm manager associated with a

first application that is associated with a first record entry when the first record entry requires attention from a user (when the first record entry requires attention from a user, or when it is 8:00AM and the 8:00 AM alarm for the calendar application requires attention from the user, the notification manager receives this attention request from the alarm manager) (Vong: column 7, lines 32-44), automatically storing the first attention request in a memory when the first record entry requires attention from the user (when the first record entry requires attention from a user, or when it is 8:00AM and the 8:00 AM alarm for the calendar application requires attention from the user, the request is sent to the notification manager which is loaded in the memory of the computer system) (Vong: column 5, lines 8-19), automatically sending a first request for information to the first application when the first record entry requires attention from the user, the information associated with the first record entry (when the first record entry requires attention from a user, or when it is 8:00AM and the 8:00AM alarm for the calendar application requires attention from the user, the interrupt manager sends this request to the first application, or the notification manager to be executed) (Vong: column 7, lines 32-44), creating a notification dialog for displaying the information, wherein the first application generates and fills in the information in the notification dialog when the first record entry requires attention from the user (when the first record entry requires attention from a user, or when it is 8:00AM and the 8:00AM alarm for the calendar application requires attention from the user, the notification manager checks to see how the user wants to be notified of the alarm and notifies the user accordingly; for example, if the user wishes to be notified by a dialog display, the notification system can create a dialog box displaying alarm information, as shown in Figure 7), and automatically displaying the notification dialog on top of an on-screen display that is generated by a second application that is

active (when the notification manager is notified by the alarm manager that it is 8:00AM and an 8:00 AM attention request is pending, the notification manager displays the alarm on top of the current display on the screen, demonstrated by flashing and/or displaying a dialog box alarm containing the notification information while other applications are running) (Vong: column 5, lines 8-17, column 7, lines 14-31 and column 8, lines 16-30). In the case of the Chari reference, Chari teaches the deletion of notifications (Chari: column 12, lines 10-28 and Figure 4A). However, although Chari teaches the deletion of notifications, the user must select each notification to be deleted, instead of deleting the notification simultaneously as the notification is displayed; in other words, the prior art fail to teach determining if outstanding requests have not been cleared, displays a list of them, and then facilitates *simultaneous* deletion of those requests. Therefore, the prior art fail to anticipate or render the above limitations obvious.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ting Zhou whose telephone number is (571) 272-4058. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:00 am - 4:30 pm.

Application/Control Number:
09/801,983
Art Unit: 2173

Page 5

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached at (571) 272-4048. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TZ

/Kieu D. Vu/
Kieu D. Vu
Primary Examiner